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ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR AFRICA

Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting in preparation
for the Third Conference of African
Ministers of Social Affairs

Addis Ababa, 4-7 October 1980

ECA/NAIROBI

REPORT OF THE INTER-GOVERNMENTAL EXPERT GROUP MEETING IN PREPARATION OF THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF SOCIAL AFFAIRS

A. ATTENDANCE AND ORGANIZATION OF WORK

Opening of the Meeting

1. The Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting in Preparation for the Third Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs was held in Africa Hall, Addis Ababa, from 4 to 7 October 1980. It was organized under the joint sponsorship of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Organization of African Unity. The Government of Socialist Ethiopia provided the host facilities.

2. Opening addresses were made by Ambassador Noureddine Djoudi, Acting Secretary-General, on behalf of the Organization of African Unity, and by Mr. James Riby-Williams, Chief of the Social Development Division, on behalf of the ECA Executive Secretary.

3. Ambassador Djoudi, in his address, referred to the activities undertaken in the field of social development since the Second Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs (Alexandria, January 1977) and in particular to those of the International Year of the Child (1979), the World Conference on the Decade for Women (Copenhagen, 1980) and the recommendations of the ECA/OAU Technical Meeting of Experts currently in session at Addis Ababa in preparation for the International Year of Disabled Persons. He said that special mention must be made of the Lagos Plan of Action adopted by the Second Extraordinary Session of the African Heads of State and Government (Lagos, April 1980) which deliberated over the future course of socio-economic development of Africa. He added that it was for the Expert Group Meeting to consider the social implication of the Lagos Plan of Action and to come up with an agreed action plan so as to develop and utilize the available human resources, including the women and youth as well as science and technology in the socio-economic development of the continent.

4. Mr. Riby-Williams, while sharing the sentiments expressed by Ambassador Djoudi, called upon the experts gathered to prepare for the Ministerial Conference to digest the substantive matters included in the agenda, draw conclusions and put up realistic recommendations for inclusion in the report which would be presented to the Third Conference of African Ministers of Social Affairs. Mr. Riby-Williams continued that the Inter-Governmental Expert Group Meeting was expected to deal with two major items of the agenda, viz. (1) Patterns of Development and (2) the establishment, administration and operational programme and financing of the newly established African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD). An examination of the social implications of the Lagos Plan of Action implied a purposeful definition of future social development policies for Africa towards the year 2 000. It was essential that the social implications, the social pre-requisites and the social repurcussions or consequences of the Plan were defined, elaborated and considered at this time of the launching of the Plan, as national and regional development systems tended to be seen within the narrow confines of physical and so-called economic terms. He referred in this connection to the United

Nations International Development Strategy of 1970, the Action Plan for the Human Environment of 1972, the World Food Programme of 1974 and the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Establishment of a New International Economic Order, all of which appeared to lay stress on development in economic terms. It was for the Expert Group Meeting - the social scientists and social workers - to anticipate and incorporate the social aspects into the Plan of Action adopted at the Economic Summit of Lagos, as "the ultimate objective of development must be to bring about sustained improvement in the well being of the individual and bestow benefits to all. If undue privileges, extremes of wealth and social injustices persist, then development fails in its essential purpose." 1/

Attendance

5. The meeting was attended by delegations representing the following member States : Algeria, Benin, Botswana, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Libya, Arabe Jamahiriya, Mozambique, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sudan, Swaziland, Togo, Tunisia, Zaire and Zimbabwe.

6. The following United Nations agencies were represented : FAO and WHO.

7. Observers from the Royal Association in Aid of the Deaf and Dumb (United Kingdom) Association of Social Work Education in Africa (ASWEA), Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (S.A.), African National Congress (South Africa) and Panafricaine des Femmes, attended the meeting.

Election of officers

8. The meeting unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman	:	SWAZILAND Dr. Ruth T. Tshbalala Medical Officer
First Vice-Chairman	:	TOGO Mr. Takouda Bouili Directeur General des affaires sociales
Second Vice-Chairman	:	TUNISIA Mr. Abderraouf Hadded Administrateur des affaires sociales

1/ See the United Nations International Development Strategy of 1970

Co-Rapporteurs

1. : SENEGAL
Ms. Seye Siga
Directrice de l'Action sociale

2. : ETHIOPIA
Mr. Yemane Araya
Head, Department of Manpower and Labour Affairs, National Revolutionary Development Campaign and Central Planning Supreme Council

B. AGENDA

9. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Patterns of Development

   a) The African Social Situation

   b) Social implications of the Lagos Plan of Action for the economic development of Africa

   c) International co-operation in social development

2. Establishment, administration and financing of the African Centre for Applied Research and Training in Social Development (ACARTSOD):

   a) Establishment of ACARTSOD - Progress Report

   b) Report of the Expert Group Meeting on ACARTSOD (Tripoli, January 1980)

   c) Budgetary estimates of ACARTSOD for the period October 1980 through December 1982

   d) Consideration of candidatures for the posts of Executive Director and Deputy Executive Director of ACARTSOD and recommendations to the Conference of Ministers

   e) Scale of assessment for contribution by member states to the budget of the Centre

3. Any other business

4. Date and venue of the next session

5. Adoption of the report.